sometime in 1996-97. Some copies of the book were reportedly distributed by the author to his friends in Kashmir. It could not, however, be known whether Pakistan's ISI was behind the publication of this book.

(b) The book which is based on fiction and not on historical reality aims at widening the gulf between Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims. It has fundamentalist and anti-national connotations and highlights the alleged killings of Kashmir Musljms by the Security forces.

(c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh has already been requested to take appropriate action against the writer and publisher of the above said book under the relevant provisions of law.

Registration of Births and Deaths

862. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all births and deaths in the country are registered with the Registrar of births and deaths;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the present level of registrations;

(c) the steps taken to ensure that all births and deaths are registered in future; and

(d) the number of such offices functioning in Maharashtra, district-wise and block-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The reasons for low registration are primarily lack of awareness of the need and lack of motivation for registration among the people at large. Administrative weaknesses on the part of some state governments are also reasons for low levels of registration in their states since of Chief Registrars of Births and Deaths and the State Governments are responsible for the implementation of the registration of births and deaths in the respective states. In India as per the latest available statistics for 1994, 52 percent of births and 46 percent of deaths were registered.

(c) Some major steps which have been taken to improve the working of the system are:

(i) The Home Minister has written to the Chief Ministers of States which have low levels of registration. The Home Secretary has addressed the Chief Secretaries highlighting the need on the part of the State Governments to give special attention to this work.

(ii) The Registrar General, India held detailed review meeting of Chief Registrars and State Secretaries incharge of civil registration of all states and union territories.

(iii) Large scale publicity measures have been launched to create awareness among the general public about the importance of registration of births and deaths. The various media used are Radio, TV, postage, stationery, cinema slides, documentary films, posters and stickers.

(d) The District and Block-wise number of Registration Centres in Maharashtra as supplied by Government of Maharashtra are given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 17]*

Global Meet on Terrorism

863. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had on 10th December, 1998 on the Human Rights Day, called for a global meet on terrorism, for evolving a time frame for dismantling weapons of mass destruction and combating terrorism; if so, whether